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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 12128

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, SP
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING: LTG LACALLE GIVES VIEWS
OF CURRENT SITUATION IN MEETING WITH CODELS.

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: ON 22 NOVEMBER 1982 AMBASSADOR, AND CODEL'S MATHIAS AND HATCH MET FOR 45 MINUTES WITH LTG LACALLE CHAIRMAN SPANISH JOINT CHIEF OF STAFF. THE DISCUSSION WAS OPEN AND FRANK. LTG LACALLE, RESPONDING TO THE QUESTIONS OF SEVERAL SENATORS, GAVE HIS VIEWS ON NATO INTEGRATION, MODERNIZATION OF THE SPANISH ARMED FORCES, THE PROBABILITY OF A MILITARY COUP, NUCLEAR WEAPONS FOR THE SPANISH ARMED FORCES AND NORTH AFRICA.

3. AFTER OPENING REMARKS BY SENATOR MATHIAS, SENATOR NUNN ASKED GENERAL LACALLE'S VIEWS ON WHETHER SPAIN WOULD GO FORWARD, STAND STILL OR BACK OUT OF NATO AND IF GENERAL LACALLE VISUALIZED A DISTINCTLY DIFFERENT ROLE FOR THE SPANISH MILITARY IF THEY WERE INTEGRATED IN NATO. IN RESPONSE, GENERAL LACALLE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

- HIS VIEWS WERE THOSE OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE MILITARY PROVIDES ITS VIEWS AND THE GOVERNMENT MAKES THE DECISIONS. THE MILITARY WILL FOLLOW THEM. THAT IS TRUE OF ALL DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES AND IS NO DIFFERENT IN SPAIN.
-- MILITARY TO MILITARY RELATIONSHIPS ARE EXCELLENT AND WOULD REMAIN SO NO MATTER WHICH DIRECTION THE NEW GOVERNMENT TAKES.

WB W
SW ✓
file: Sen. Mathias
Sen. Nunn
Sen. Specter

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- STATEMENTS BY THE PSOE INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH THEY HAD NOTHING AGAINST NATO, THEY FELT SPAIN ENTERED NATO TOO RAPIDLY. PSOE HAS SPOKEN OF A REFERENDUM BUT IS NOT IN A HURRY. SINCE IT IS NOT A PROBLEM FOR TOMORROW, WE WILL WAIT AND SEE. THE MILITARY INTEGRATION MAY NOT PROGRESS AS RAPIDLY AS IN THE LAST TWO MONTHS AND COULD BE STOPPED.

- THERE ARE GROUPS IN SPAIN WHO ARE NOT HAPPY WITH THE TREATMENT OF SPANISH PROBLEMS (E.G., TERRORISM, EC ENTRY, GIBRALTAR) BY OTHER NATO MEMBERS. THEY ARE RIGHT TO SAY THAT SO FAR JOINING NATO HAS NOT SOLVED THESE PROBLEMS.

- THE VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE WILL BE IMPORTANT TO SPANISH/AMERICAN RELATIONS.

4. SENATOR NUNN ASKED WHAT WERE THE PRIORITIES FOR MILITARY MODERNIZATION IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. GENERAL LACALLE REPLIED:

- AIR FORCE: THE PRINCIPAL EFFORT WILL BE THE PURCHASE OF THE F-18 OTHER PROJECTS AS THE BUDGET ALLOWS.

- NAVY: ACQUISITION OF A COMBAT GROUP WITH AN ANTI-SUBMARINE MISSION CONSISTING OF CARRIER AND ESCORT SHIPS. SECOND PRIORITY WILL BE ESCORT VESSELS TO PROTECT MARITIME TRAFFIC, EW AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- ARMY: MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO PROVIDE MORE POTENT UNITS EVEN IF FEWER CAN BE SUSTAINED. SECOND PRIORITY WILL BE TANK MODERNIZATION. SPANISH ARMY WEAKNESSES ARE IN THE AREAS OF ANTI-TANK AND AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS.

5. SENATOR NUNN THEN ASKED GENERAL LACALLE IF HE THOUGHT THAT BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS, SUCH AS EXERCISES, WOULD CONTINUE WHILE THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMING AND PRIOR TO THE APPROVAL OF THE NEW TREATY. GENERAL LACALLE MADE THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS:

- HE BELIEVES BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WILL CONTINUE AS TODAY. ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT KNOW THE POSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, ITS LEADERS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED A DESIRE TO CONTINUE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES.

- IN THE PAST, RELATIONSHIPS HAVE CONTINUED DURING NEGOTIATIONS AND IT IS HOPED THAT AN AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED EVEN IF SMALL ADJUSTMENTS ARE REQUIRED.

6. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION BY SENATOR NUNN ABOUT THE MILITARY INTERVENING, GENERAL LACALLE REPLIED:

- HE DIDN'T THINK IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN. DURING THE 23 FEB 1981 COUP ATTEMPT, ALL BUT A FEW OF THE PARTICIPANTS FELT THEY WERE ACTING UNDER LAWFUL ORDERS. THE SHOCK OF WHAT HAPPENDED HAS SENSITIZED THE MILITARY SO THAT TODAY THEY WOULD NOT AGAIN BE DECEIVED.

- ALTHOUGH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE ARMED FORCES THERE ARE SMALL GROUPS OF PLOTTERS, THE VAST MAJORITY ARE LOYAL. THESE SMALL GROUPS ARE KEPT ALIVE BY ACTS OF TERRORISM AND BY UNJUST REPORTING ABOUT THE ARMED FORCES. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THIS MEDIA REPORTING MAY ONLY BE CARELESS, OTHER MAY BE INTENTIONALLY PROVOCATIVE WITH AN INTENT TO SUBVERT THE PRESENT SYSTEM. HE THOUGHT THE STIMULUS FOR THIS TO BE EXTERNAL.

7. SENATOR SPECTER THEN ASKED A TWO PART QUESTION - WHAT IS THE THREAT TO SPAIN? - ARE THERE PLANS FOR A NUCLEAR FORCE? GENERAL LACALLE RESPONDED THAT THE THREAT TO THE WORLD WAS SOVIET DOMINATION. AS TO NUCLEAR ARMS, SPAIN

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CAN'T THINK OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS - THERE ARE TOO MANY NEEDS IN THE AREA OF CONVENTIONAL SYSTEMS. SPAIN WOULD HAVE TO TRUST ITS FRIENDS IN THIS AREA. HE WENT ON THAT SPANISH FEARS OF BEING TARGETED, IF THEY HAD NUCLEAR BASES, WAS REFLECTED IN THE LAW REQUIRING PERMISSION OF THE CORTES BEFORE NUCLEAR WEAPONS COULD BE BASED IN SPANISH TERRITORY. THIS COULD ALSO BE READ TO MEAN THAT SUCH BASING COULD IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES TAKE PLACE'

8. SENATOR SPECTER ASKED ABOUT NORTH AFRICA AND LIBYA. GENERAL LACALLE SAID THAT THE QUESTIONS ARE LIBYAN NEEDS AND INTENTIONS. IT HAS FAR MORE AIRPLANES THAN PILOTS, BUT IT HAS LITTLE MILITARY CAPABILITY. HE MADE THE POINT THAT BETWEEN THE NORTH COAST AND THE DESERT THERE IS A VOID THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD LIKE TO FILL' IF THAT HAPPENDED IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS. THE AREA IS LINKED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF MIDDLE EAST OIL AND THE ARAB/ISRAEL CONFLICT. THESE AREAS SHOULD BE OF CONCERN TO NATO MEMBERS, BUT THEIR FORCES ARE COMMITTED IN EUROPE. THEREFORE, THE U.S., WITH ITS RDF AND OTHER RESERVES, MUST BE COUNTED ON IN THESE AREAS'

9. SENATOR MATHIAS THANKED GENERAL LACALLE FOR HIS TIME AND FRANK RESPONSES. GENERAL LACALLE RESPONDED THAT HE FELT THAT THESE TYPES OF CONTACTS ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT KNOW WHAT THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE, UNITED STATES RELATIONSHIPS ARE SO VITAL TO SPAIN THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL CONSIDER THEM CAREFULLY. HE CONTINUED THAT UNDERSTANDING BY THE UNITED STATES OF SPANISH PROBLEMS THAT DO NOT DIRECTLY EFFECT THE U.S. WOULD BE OF GREAT HELP.

10. COMMENTS: GENERAL LACALLE'S ANSWERS REINFORCE PREVIOUS MISSION REPORTING ON THE SPANISH MILITARY'S ATTITUDES DURING THE TRANSITION TO A NEW GOVERNMENT. TODMAN.
END OF MESSAGE

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